

Message Text

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APPROVED BY: NEA/ARP:RWAHERNE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 140456

FOLLOWING REPEATS STATE 140456 ACTION KUWAIT INFO SECDEF DA
USCINCEUR COMIDEASTFOR JUNE 16TH

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 140456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: CLOSE-IN AIR DEFENSE AND TANKS FOR KUWAIT

REFS: (A) KUWAIT 1963; (B) KUWAIT 1871; (C) KUWAIT 1329;
(D) KUWAIT 1125; (E) KUWAIT 737

1. YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO INFORM APPROPRIATE GOK
OFFICIALS THAT USG IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE KUWAIT ARMED
FORCES, ON FMS CASH SALE BASIS, VULCAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS
FROM NORMAL PRODUCTION.

2. THERE ARE TWO VERSIONS OF VULCAN SYSTEM, BOTH EQUIPPED
WITH FIRE CONTROL RADAR AND 20 MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT MULTI-
BARREL GUN. THESE VERSIONS ARE: (1) M-163 SELF-PROPELLED
MODEL MOUNTED ON MODIFIED ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER, AND
(2) M-167 TOWED MODEL REQUIRING ANOTHER VEHICLE AS MOVER.

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3. LETTERS OF OFFER ON EITHER SYSTEM NOTED ABOVE CAN BE PROVIDED UPON RECEIPT OF FORMAL REQUESTS SPECIFYING TYPE, CONFIGURATION, AND QUANTITY.

4. RE TANKS: YOU SHOULD INFORM GOK THAT
USG CURRENTLY UNABLE TO COMMIT
ITSELF TO SALE OF M-60 TO KUWAIT. FURTHER, FOR PLANNING

PURPOSES, GOK SHOULD KNOW THAT CURRENT PRODUCTION LEAD
TIMES ARE RUNNING AT MINIMUM OF FOUR YEARS.

5. BEGIN FYI: WE HAVE RESERVED OUR POSITION ON POLICY
QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT WE WOULD IN FUTURE ISSUE NEW
LETTER OF OFFER TO KUWAIT FOR M-60S. WE SHARE YOUR DOUBTS
THAT KUWAITIS WOULD ACCEPT OFFER OF TANKS WITH DELIVERIES
BEGINNING FOUR YEARS IN FUTURE, AND, GIVEN OUR OWN
EXPLICIT ASSURANCE TO HMG ON THIS SCORE, WE ALSO DO NOT
RPT NOT WISH ANY DISCUSSIONS WE MIGHT HAVE WITH KUWAITIS
ABOUT TANKS NOW TO BE VIEWED BY BRITISH AS ONSET OF U.S.
COMPETITION FOR THIS SALE. A FURTHER FACTOR TO BE CON-
SIDERED IS POSSIBLE EFFECT ANY MAJOR NEW USG SALE OF
OFFENSE-ORIENTED ARMOR TO KUWAIT MIGHT HAVE IN EXAC-
ERBATING KUWAITI/IRAQI RELATIONS AT TIME BAGHDAD APPEARS
MORE INTERESTED THAN AT ANY TIME IN RECENT PAST IN
NEGOTIATING OUTSTANDING DISPUTES WITH NEIGHBORS.

6. FYI: THUS, WE BELIEVE WE COULD LOSE ON SEVERAL
COUNTS AT ONCE IF WE OPENED TANK TALKS WITH KUWAIT AT
THIS TIME. DOD IS, HOWEVER, CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING FOR
SECOND FOUNDRY SOURCE FOR HULLS AND TURRETS WITH VIEW
TOWARD INCREASING M-60 PRODUCTION. CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS
ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1975,
AND DELIVERY SCHEDULES FOR M-60S MAY BE REVISED SOON
THEREAFTER. SHOULD UK/GOK CHIEFTAIN NEGOTIATIONS FAIL
COMPLETELY, WE MAY RPT MAY BE PREPARED TO RE-EXAMINE
TANK QUESTION THIS FALL.

7. FYI: SINCE REFTEL (A) DOES NOT REPEAT NOT MENTION
M-103, WE ASSUME KUWAITIS AWARE THIS OLD TANK NO LONGER
FOR SALE. WE HAVE NOTED REFTEL (B) INDICATION THAT THEY
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NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED IN M-48A5. END FYI.

8. REFTEL (E) MENTIONS REDEYE. THIS SYSTEM IS NOT RPT
NOT RELEASABLE TO KUWAIT UNDER CURRENT ARMS CONTROL
POLICY.
KISSINGER
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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